

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 /121 W

-----085158 230838Z /15

R 220843Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8148
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EMIN, ENGR, AF, UR
SUBJECT: MORE SOVIET ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

REF: KABUL 4021

1. THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO SIGN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA). IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS, IN ADDITION TO THOSE REPORTED REFTEL, HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN THE KABUL TIMES.

A. AN AGREEMENT FOR EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTS TO BE USED ON THE NANGARHAR VALLEY PROJECT WAS SIGNED ON MAY 16.

B. AN AGREEMENT FOR SURVEY AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION FOR UTILIZING THE KOKCHA RIVER WATERS FOR IRRIGATION AND ELECTRIC
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POWER GENERATION WAS SIGNED ON MAY 16. TOTAL COST OF THE SURVEY AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE 2,385,000 RUBLES FINANCED FROM A SOVIET CREDIT.

C. AN AGREEMENT FOR SOVIET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE NAGHLU AND PUL-I-KHUMRI HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS WAS SIGNED ON MAY 16. A TOTAL OF 11 SOVIET EXPERTS WILL BE EMPLOYED

ON THIS PROJECT AND THE KOKCHA RIVER PROJECT.

D. AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED MAY 17 FOR MINING EQUIPMENT
NEEDED BY THE AFGHAN MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES.
TOTAL EQUIPMENT VALUE WAS GIVEN AS 2,825,403 RUBLES.

E. AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED MAY 17 FOR THE EXPANSION OF
THE MAZAR-I-SHARIF THERMO POWER PLANT AND EQUIPMENT FOR
THE MAZAR CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANTS. SIXTEEN SOVIET
EXPERTS WILL BE EMPLOYED ON THE PROJECT.

F. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE AGREEMENTS, THE KABUL TIMES
REPORTED MAY 18 THAT ACTING DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE
ABDUL SALAM WAS VISITING MOSCOW TO SIGN A TRADE PROTOCOL
FOR 1978 WITH THE SOVEIT UNION.

2. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT THREE SOVIET TELEVISION PROGRAM
ADVISORS HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE AT WORK IN THE AFGHAN MINISTRY
OF RADIO AND TELEVISION. THEY PRESUMABLY ARE ADVISING THE
FLEDGLING TELEVISION DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAD ONLY BEGUN OPERATIONS
IN MARCH AND WHICH HAS BEEN OFF THE AIR SINCE THE COUP.

3. COMMENT: AS WITH THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS (REFTEL) SIGNED
WITH THE SOVIET UNION, NONE OF THE PROJECTS LISTED ABOVE IS
NEW. ALL WERE LISTED IN THE 1357 (1978-79) BUDGET OF THE
DAOUD GOVERNMENT OR THE SEVEN-YEAR PLAN AS SOVIET PROJECTS.
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ALTHOUGH AN INDIAN COMPANY SIGNED ON MAY 20 AN EXTENSION
OF AN ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR AN IBRD PROJECT, THE ONLY
BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS SIGNED SO FAR
BY THE DRA HAVE BEEN WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
THE RAPID-FIRE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS CONTRASTS SHARPLY
WITH THE SLOW PACE OF THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT IN DEALING
WITH ITS NORTHERN NEIGHBOR.
ELIOT

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